

41 Caraway Drive
Rhode Island
July 13, 2010

House Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Social Security
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Title of Hearing: Hearing on Social Security at 75 Years. More Necessary Now than Ever.

Dear Members of the Committee:

I urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. These unfair offsets take away some retired public employees' benefits that they have earned, often forcing them into poverty. Public employees like educators, police officers, and firefighters should not suffer a penalty for dedicating their lives to public services. The GPO and WEP discourage talented people from entering the teaching profession.

Both the House and the Senate held hearings in the 110th Congress, but the bill has not moved out of the committee. Retired educators, those still in the profession, and those seeking to enter the profession cannot wait any longer for action.

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall social security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package.

Sincerely,
Joseph N. Buffardi
Member: National Education Association